

5P

S E C R E T
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

DBB 76987

Copy to: 1 - INS, San Diego (RM)

Report of: JOHN J. REID, JR.
Date: 3/29/67

Office: Newark, New Jersey

Field Office File #: 105-20045

Bureau File #: 105-147037

Title: ANDRE BELA LOUIS BAK

Character:

INTERNAL SECURITY -- FRANCE
REGISTRATION ACT - FRANCE

Synopsis: DEZSO I. BENYO, former colleague of BAK's in France, reported BAK operated and recruited Hungarian Intelligence organization for French Intelligence in France, 1949 till about 1962-1963. BENYO described BAK as a genuinely anti-communist and a man of high ideals. He believed BAK made break with French Intelligence in about 1963. LASZLO VARJU reported knowing BAK when he lived in New Jersey area, 1962-1963.

- P -

DETAILS:

On January 18, 1967, LASZLO VARJU, 112 Semel Avenue, Garfield, New Jersey, advised that he knew the subject when the subject lived in the New Jersey area, 1962-1963.

VARJU related that BAK was a Hungarian Army Staff Officer during World War II. He was captured by the French and remained in France following the war. Subject told VARJU that he worked for the French Army making maps. Subject was

S E C R E T

Group I

Excluded from auto-
 matic downgrading
 and declassification

33 COPY

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

FOR COORDINATION WITH FBI

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
 SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B26
 NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
 DATE 2008

NK 105-20045

reportedly well acquainted with both eastern and western Europe and his occupation was that of a draftsman.

VARJU stated that he did not believe that the subject performed any type of intelligence assignment for the French because in his estimation the French would never trust a former Hungarian Army Officer. VARJU related that former Hungarian Army Officers were, however, partial toward the French because the French never turned back to the Soviets any Hungarian prisoners of war.

VARJU said that the subject told him that he joined the Hungarian Veterans Organization, MHBK and that this organization, according to VARJU, was composed of Hungarian Army veterans of both World War I and World War II. VARJU explained that the MHBK was strictly a voluntary group and had no connection with the French Government. It was particularly strong in France because of the large number of Hungarian refugees living in France, but that its strength in other parts of the world was very limited.

VARJU related that BAK left France because of a problem he had with his wife who left him in France. BAK decided to attempt to forget about her and immigrate here. VARJU advised that the subject lived in New Jersey from about 1962 to 1963 at which time he left and is now residing in San Diego, California. VARJU said that he considers BAK to be an honest person.

VARJU related that he is acquainted with DEZSO BENYO who resided at 49 Paulison Avenue, Passaic, New Jersey. He described BENYO as an intelligent person who studied medicine in Germany following the completion of his tour of duty in the U. S. Army in Korea in the 1950s. BENYO is married to a French girl and was employed as a chemist somewhere in the Northern part of New Jersey.

VARJU related that BAK and BENYO are well acquainted with one another, but they reportedly had a disagreement due to some undescribed incident which took place in France following World War II.

On February 6, 1967, DEZSO I. BENYO, also known as Dezso Benyovszky and Jozsef Nyitra, Mt. Arlington Gardens, Apartment 30, Mt. Arlington, New Jersey, furnished the following information concerning himself and ANDRE BAK:

NK 105-20045

BENYO was born in a small town known as Nyitrai-Jozsef, Hungary, and that his true name is Dezso Benyovszky. His name has been legally changed to DEZSO I. BENYO. He uses the pen name Jozsef Nyitra, a variation of his place of birth, for writing purposes. He writes in various political journals in this country and abroad.

BENYO said that he associated with ANDRE BAK in an Hungarian Intelligence Organization operated by French Intelligence. They worked together in France from about 1949 to 1952 when BENYO disassociated himself from the organization. He described the group as composed of former Hungarian Army officers who acted on behalf of the French.

BAK was former Hungarian Army staff officer who attended Hungarian military academy schools. BAK is a professional soldier. BAK was employed in France by the French Air Ministry and worked as a map reader and draftsman so as to cover his intelligence assignments. BAK was assigned to the recruitment of men for the intelligence gathering operations against communist Hungary. It was BAK's assignment to select men for work in the apparatus and BAK was ideally suited for this job because of his background and affiliation with the Hungarian military veterans association known as MHBK.

BENYO pointed out that there was no connection between the Hungarian veterans and the French Intelligence, but that BAK would use his membership in this organization to select men whom he felt could fit into this intelligence apparatus. BENYO did not know the name of this unit BAK headed, but that it was a part of the French Intelligence Service.

BAK recruited for the apparatus solely in France; 75 per cent of the personnel in the unit came from France. There were at one time about 100 men in the apparatus. BENYO's job was to deliver the fictitious travel documents to various drops and designated places in France and Austria, other men were assigned as couriers and operators. They usually re-entered Hungary using the railroad between Austria and Hungary.

BENYO stated that a number of the men who were assigned as couriers to operate in a clandestine manner in Hungary were captured and hung by the Hungarian authorities. An investigation of the personnel in the apparatus revealed that the Soviets or Hungarian intelligence had doubled an individual who, at times,

NK 105-20045

placed the courier on the train destined to Hungary. This individual escaped liquidation by returning to Hungary.

BENYO stated that in 1952 he began to evaluate the objectives of the apparatus and became disenchanted. He felt he was acting more on behalf of the French Government and less as a Hungarian patriot, and believed that the apparatus was being used by the French for their own purpose. He said he was coaxed into joining the apparatus only because he believed that the French would set up a Hungarian Government in exile in France. Although this was held out to him as a reason for continuing his work in the apparatus, it never materialized.

Prior to disassociating himself with the group, he had an argument with the subject and accused the subject of being duped by the French.

Later, BAK left the group and BENYO believes that the group subsequently disbanded. BAK felt personally responsible for the deaths of a number of the Hungarian couriers and operators. BENYO stated that the above, along with the fact that BAK's wife left him in 1952 or 1953, made him despondent and he moved to Casablanca. BAK later moved to Morocco, prior to emigrating to the United States in about 1962. BAK lived in Newark, New Jersey, until about 1963 and then moved to California, and that he is residing in San Diego, California, at the present time. BENYO described BAK as an honest and trustworthy person, and although they have had disagreements he has had nothing but the highest respect for BAK. BENYO added that BAK is genuinely anti-communist and a man of high ideals, and that it was his opinion that BAK was no longer associated with French Intelligence. He believed that BAK made the break with French Intelligence upon his departure from France in about 1953.

BENYO identified the following persons as former members of the Hungarian Intelligence apparatus under the French:

✓ []
LOUIS V. RAJAGH - This person acted as a courier in the apparatus and is presently living somewhere in Raleigh, North Carolina. He worked for United States Steel Corporation in the area of Raleigh, North Carolina, and served in the United States Army from about 1953 to 1958.

SECRET

DBB 76987

NK 105-20045

✓
No 201
X
ALEXANDER BANHEGYI - This person acted as a courier in the above apparatus and is presently residing somewhere in Chicago, Illinois. He is believed to be married to a German girl and is about 58 years of age.

/
No 201
X
OLIVER LOVAASZ - This person was a former major in the Hungarian Army General staff. He was the training officer in the apparatus and presently resides at 3637 North Magnolia Street, Chicago, Illinois.

BENYO added that the training area for the above apparatus was in Regensburg, Germany.

BENYO added that he never received any money during the time that he was associated with this apparatus and joined the United States Army in Germany in about 1953. He was honorably discharged in 1958, and served in Korea with the United States Army. He claimed to have received a field officer's commission while in Korea and upon being discharged, returned to Germany where he studied medicine at Heidelberg University for almost five years. He failed to complete his last six months of medical studies in Germany because he lacked funds and had to support his wife and family. BENYO is presently employed as chemist at the Picatinny Arsenal, Dover, New Jersey.

-5*-

SECRET

C .]